

Foreword

Tackling mental ill-health of the working-age population is becoming a key issue for labour market and social policies in many OECD countries. It is an issue that has been neglected for too long despite creating very high and increasing costs to people and society at large. OECD governments increasingly recognise that policy has a major role to play in improving the employment opportunities for people with mental ill-health, including very young people especially; in helping those employed but struggling in their jobs; and in avoiding long-term sickness and disability caused by a mental disorder.

A first OECD report on this subject, *“Sick on the Job? Myths and Realities about Mental Health and Work”*, published in January 2012, identified the main underlying policy challenges facing OECD countries by broadening the evidence base and questioning some myths around the links between mental ill-health and work. This report on Switzerland is one in a series of reports looking at how these policy challenges are being tackled in selected OECD countries, covering issues such as the transition from education to employment, the role of the workplace, the institutions providing employment services for jobseekers, the transition into permanent disability and the capacity of the health system. The other reports look at the situation in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Together, these nine reports aim to deepen the evidence on good mental health and work policy. Each report also contains a series of detailed country-specific policy recommendations.

Work on this review was a collaborative effort carried out jointly by the Employment Analysis and Policy Division and the Social Policy Division of the OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs. The report was prepared by Veerle Miranda and Christopher Prinz (project leader) from the OECD and Niklas Baer from the Psychiatric Service of the Canton Basel-Landschaft in Switzerland. Statistical work was provided by Dana Blumin and Maxime Ladaïque. Valuable comments were provided by Mark Keese and Stefano Scarpetta. The report also includes comments from a number of Swiss experts, ministries and authorities, including the Federal Social Insurance Office, the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs and the Federal Office of Public Health.



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